

REMARKS***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon entry and consideration of the instant amendment, claims 13, 16, 25, 29 and 38 will have been amended. Support for the claim amendments presented herein can be found in Figs. 2 and 19 as well as paragraph [0050] (which describes sealing elements with a V-shaped cross-section) of the instant published application No. 2007/0175558. Accordingly, claims 13-40 will be pending and under consideration.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner indicated that 30-37 are allowed and that claims 29 and 38-40 contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner also rejected claims 13-24 and 26-28 over the applied art of record. The status of claim 25 is unclear. By the present remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Present Amendment is Proper for Entry After Final

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicant notes that no question of new matter is presented nor are any new issues raised in entering the instant amendment of the claims and that no new search would be required. Moreover, Applicant submits that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the

present application and each of the pending claims. Applicant notes, in particular, that claim 13 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the applied art and place the application in condition for allowance consistent with the Interview of August 2, 2011, as discussed below. Moreover, the Examiner indicated in the Interview that he would likely enter and consider the instant Amendment after final.

Interview of August 2, 2011

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Bellinger in the Interview of August 2, 2011. In the Interview, Applicant's representative discussed proposed clarifying amendments to claim 13 in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance.

In response, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 13 as proposed in the Interview would likely overcome the applied art and, subject to further search and consideration, place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's agreement to enter and consider the instant amendment after final rejection and to contact Applicant's representative should any issues remain which might impede issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Status of claim 25 Unclear

Applicant notes that claim 25 was not rejected or indicated to be allowed or allowable. Regardless, as this claim depends from claim 13, which is believed to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that claim 25 be indicated to be allowed.

Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**Over GB '784 with DE '738**

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 13-17, 22, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 787,784 in view of DE 1 021 738.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection for reasons already made of record in regards to the noted applied prior art references, Applicant notes that claim 13 has been amended in a manner which the Examiner indicated would overcome the applied art. As such, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

Over GB '784 with DE '738 and Veux

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 18, 19, 21, 24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '784 and DE '738 in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,104,300 to VEUX et al.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection for reasons already made of record in regards to the noted applied prior art references, Applicant notes that claim 13 has been amended in a manner which the Examiner indicated would overcome the applied art. As such, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

Over GB '784, DE '738 and Veux with Medynski

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '784, DE '738 and VEUX and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,621,021 to MEDYNSKI.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection for reasons already made of record in regards to the noted applied prior art references, Applicant notes that claim 13 has been amended in a manner which the Examiner indicated would overcome the applied art. As such, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

Allowable Subject matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indicating that claims 30-37 are allowed and that claims 29 and 38-40 are allowable. Applicant submits that claim 40 should be indicated to be allowed as it depends from allowed claim 30. Moreover, as claim 13 is believed to be allowable and as claims 29 and 38 are presented in independent form, all pending claims should be indicated to be allowed.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102 and 103, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the

present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any necessary fees, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, in order to maintain pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

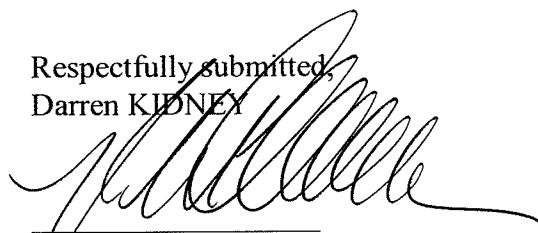
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention, as recited in each of the pending claims. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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